22nd January 1949] [Mr. President]

Madras Commercial Crops Markets (Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1948); the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1949 and the Madras Agriculturists Relief (Amendment) Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1949).

'(2) On 21st January 1949—The Madras Municipal and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1949) and signed by him for the concurrence of the Council.' "

III.—SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is it agreed that we are meeting on the 25th afternoon? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know when we are meeting again? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" We are meeting on the 25th afternoon, and we will have to go on for two days. I give this information to hon. Members who would like to reserve berths in trains."

IV.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR EXCESS EXPENDITURE IN 1945–46.

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I think it is quite in order and quite necessary that there should be a demand for excess of expenditure, although it is excess of expenditure incurred in 1945–46, about four years ago. Sir, I am not quite sure whether the Assembly would pass this demand, but as far as this Council is concerned, we are only discussing the demand. The report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of the Province of Madras for the year 1945–46 reveals a very regrettable state of affairs. In introducing these demands, I did not hear the Hon. Minister or refer to the regrettable state of affairs revealed by this report. I shall not give many instances, but I am anxious, Sir, to know whether this regrettable state of affairs continue even to-day. I want to know whether the conditions that existed in 1945–46 and thereafter continue even to-day in Government departments. Sir, this report gives us an insight into the working of Government departments, which when pointed out, this House will find to be regrettable and deplorable. Sir, at page 9 of the report it is said—

> 'The Accountant-General has pointed out that in respect of the payments made during the year 1944–45 in connection with the State Trading Schemes administered by the Director of Agriculture, vouchers and payees' receipts for amounts aggregating to Rs. 7,12,798 still remain to be submitted to audit.'

Sir, how are the Government departments working at present? Have the Government taken any steps to understand and get into order the regrettable feature of the working of the Agriculture department in 1944–45 and for some years later? Receipts amounting to 7 lakhs of rupees have still to be submitted to audit. It is not one or two rupees."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The accounts relate to 1944–45."